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SUBJECT: Corrected: TFAH01: Ecuador on assistance for Haiti

REF: STATE 4854; STATE 4807; STATE 4909

¶11. (U) Poloff delivered points (refs A-C) to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Coordination and Planning Galo Yepez, and Acting Director General for North American Affairs Fernando Chavez. Both officials expressed their support for current U.S. assistance efforts and the need for military personnel for aid distribution and security. Yepez said that Ecuador's foreign policy puts solidarity within Latin America high on its agenda, and the Ecuadorian aid should be seen in that light.

¶12. (U) According to Yepez, the GOE plans to send a second official aid flight to Haiti, departing on Friday, January 22. He expressed concern about receiving permission to land. Poloff reiterated points in Ref B and advised that the GOE should call the Haiti FligQ Operations Coordination Center as soon as possible. Yepez said he would put the Ecuadorian air force colonel in charge of the operation in touch with the DAO as soon as possible to ensure coordination. The flight will apparently include two water treatment units, canned food, and materials to resupply Ecuadorian teams on the ground. Yepez thanked the U.S. military for assistance in off-loading supplies from the first Ecuadorian aid flight, on January 14.

¶13. (SBU) Poloff raised recent press reports about accusations that the U.S. was invading Haiti. Both MFA officials laughed, and said they had both been to Haiti and understood that security had to be a high priority. Yepez, who was on the Ecuadorian aid flight on January 14, said it was clear to him that the Marines (and other U.S. military personnel) "had been invited." Yepez said Ecuador was also concerned about migration of Haitians. He noted Ecuador had relatively open doors, and that four recent arrivals from Haiti have requested permission for 16 family members to join them. Yepez expects more of the same, and said it was important for the international community to continue to deliver aid "in situ."
CHRITTON